GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5342
ANSWERED ON:28.04.2003
PRODUCTION OF POTATO
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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of potato production recorded during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) the major potato producing States of the country; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to increase the production of potato in the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV)

(a): The production of potato in the country during the last three years is as under:-

Years	Production (`000 MT)
1999-2000	24713.2
2000-2001	22488.4
2001-2002	24082.0

(b): The major potato producing States are: Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Bihar, Punjab,Gujarat, Karnataka, Assam and Madhya Pradesh.

(c): The Government of India implemented a scheme on `Integrated Development ofVegetables including Root & Tuber Crops` during 9th plan. Since Oct. 2002 the scheme hasbeen subsumed in the scheme on `Macro Management of Agriculture − supplementation/complementation of states` efforts through work plans. Under this scheme states have greater flexibility to prioritize their needs. The programmes of the scheme can nowbe taken up through work plans. The focus of the scheme is to increase production of vegetables including potato by replacement of old cultivars with improved ones, dissemination of improved technologies on production and post-harvest management through demonstrations, training of farmers ctc. Besides, National Seeds Corporation and State Farm Corporation also make available certified seeds to farmers.

The Government through National Horticulture Board provides back-ended capitalinvestment subsidy to entrepreneurs for establishment of cold storage facilities including potato. The Government also supports proposals of State Governments on implementation of market intervention scheme on potato. These measures have helped increase production of potato in the Country.